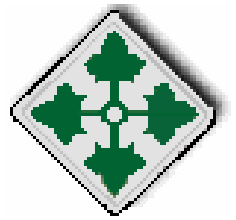




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry
4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Forward Operating Base Kalsu, North Babil, Iraq



15 Jan 2006

To whom it may concern

I joined the Army OCT 15 2002. I joined the Army to protect my country, family, and friends, and to make them all proud. I have numerous family members that have served in the military. My father was a medic stationed in Alaska. My grandfather was an MP stationed at FT Leavenworth, and my uncle is in the air national guard, so I am not the first in my family to know this life, and that made it that much more important that I joined the service. I joined the army as an infantryman with the aspirations of going Airborne Ranger and Special Forces.

I am very proud to serve my country in a time of war. One of the reasons why I joined was to protect our way of life. I could not standby and watch this on the news. I wanted to join the fight. Earn my freedom and protect the freedom of others. It feels good to protect something as important as freedom. .when I joined the army. I knew where I was going and I couldn't wait. I remembered what it felt like when I saw the towers on TV and how it hit so close to home when they hit the Pentagon. Now when I go home and see the pride in my family and friends eyes. I know I did the right thing. I know that they are honored that we make this sacrifice, and know that as long as there are people like us, there lives are in good hands

Life on FOB Kalsu is good. The chow is great. And we have two internet café's and one pay internet, when we got here we arrived at Kalsu we already had air conditioning and a laundry service, it's nice not having to do my own laundry again. We also have a soccer field and a basketball court. Right next to the basketball court is an Iraqi bazaar. They sell anything you would ever need in Iraq, and what they don't have they will get. We also have a nice gym, aerobic tent, and a PX. We even have a barber shop in case you can't cut your own hair.

Respectfully,

SPC Harris,Andrew